



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## 2026

### What changes were made for the 2026 PWBA season?

Entry fees have increased for both the National and Regional Tour events. The entry fee for National events is \$400, while the entry fee for Regional events is \$200. Major championships (USBC Queens, U.S. Women's Open, Tour Championship) remain at \$500 for entry.

The use of slow oil-absorbing high-performance (urethane) bowling balls is **not allowed** (any hardness) for use on the PWBA Tour (including U.S. Women's Open, USBC Queens and all PWBA Regionals)

The Product Registration program for the PWBA has been discontinued. This means that competitors can wear any ball brand logo on their jerseys including, but not limited to, brands previously restricted such as DV8, Radical and Track. Competitors can also wear accessories and logos of companies such as KR Strikeforce, Creating the Difference, etc. Guidelines are still in place for Commercial Partners, please see Rule 7, B. Commercial Partners.

### When does the PWBA National Tour season begin?

The 2026 National season starts with the PWBA Bowlers Journal Rockford Open at The Cherry Bowl in Rockford, Ill., on April 29 and will conclude with PWBA Tour Championship Week, which will take place from Aug. 11-18, at Yorktown Lanes in Parma Heights, Ohio.

### When does the PWBA Regional Tour season begin?

The 2026 Regional season starts with the PWBA Orlando Regional at Boardwalk Bowl in Orlando, Fla., on Feb. 22 and will conclude with the PWBA Regional Showdown, which will take place Dec. 3-5, at Airport Lanes in Sanford, Fla.

### How much does it cost to enter each event?

- |                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| - PWBA National events             | \$400   |
| - PWBA Regional events             | \$200   |
| - USBC Queens:                     | \$500 (until April 14, \$550 starting April 15) |
| - U.S. Women's Open direct entries | \$500   |
| - U.S. Women's Open PTQ            | \$500   |
| - PWBA Tour Championship           | \$500   |

### When can I register for each event?

Registration will open for all PWBA events, National and Regional six (6) weeks prior to the start of the event. Links to enter PWBA events can be found under the Schedule section of PWBA.com on the individual tournament pages.

Event registration for the USBC Queens and U.S. Women's Open PTQ will be available on BOWL.com when those events are open for registration.



PWBA Tour Championship is an invitation-only event. You must have won a National Tour title during the current season, with the remainder of the field to be filled from the PWBA season points list through the most recent tournament preceding Tour Championship.

## **How do entries work for PWBA events?**

### **National Tour entry eligibility/Entry priority process**

Competitors who average 190 or higher may enter a PWBA National event. There is an entry priority process for National events in the following order prior to the 21-day deadline:

1. PWBA Hall of Famers
2. PWBA National Champions
3. Top 50 players from the previous season point list
4. Other eligible players based on date of entry

If any other eligible competitor (No. 4 above) attempts to enter a tournament at a time when only ten (10) spots remain in the tournament proper, they will be placed on the PWBA Qualifier (PTQ) list.

### **Regional entry eligibility/Entry Process**

Competitors who average 180 or higher and PWBA National Champions whose last title was more than 15 years ago may enter a PWBA Regional event. Entries are first come, first serve.

The entry field for PWBA Regional events will be set to accommodate the maximum number of competitors, subject to the number of lanes available and no more than five (5) competitors assigned to any pair of lanes. Entries will close 48 hours prior to the start of the event; however, the tournament director has the right to accept entries after the 48-hour deadline.

### **Is there a limit on the number of players for an event?**

Yes, but the limit is based on the number of lanes in the host center and varies by event. The entry field for PWBA events will be set to accommodate the maximum number of competitors, subject to the number of lanes available and no more than five (5) competitors assigned to any pair of lanes.

### **What equipment can I use during PWBA competition?**

All bowling balls must meet all USBC specifications and be included on the list of USBC approved balls posted on BOWL.com. However, certain bowling balls are ineligible for competitions even if they appear on the approved list. The use of slow oil absorbing high-performance bowling balls (urethane) is **not** allowed in PWBA National or Regional competitions including the USBC Queens and U.S. Women's Open. The list of ineligible balls can also be found on Bowl.com listed as National Tournament Ineligible Ball List – No Slow Oil Allowed.

### **What rule changes were made for the 2026 PWBA season?**

A complete copy of the Official PWBA Rules and Regulations can be found on PWBA.com. Here are some key changes that will be in effect at the start of the 2026 season:



Rule 1-F – Entry Fee Payment – Updated to include cost of entry for competitors.

Rule 1-J - Field Size, Entry Fee, Priority and Deadline for Acceptance of PWBA Regional Entries – updated to include cost of entry.

Rule 7. PWBA Product Usage and Sponsorship Guidelines– Previously the PWBA Product Registration Program, was updated to reflect the discontinuation of the product registration program as it relates to bowling related brands and partners.

Rule 8. Wearing Apparel, Logo Placement and Appearance Guidelines – Updated to reflect changes to the product registration program.

Rule 12-A – Bowling Ball Specifications – Updated to reflect new USBC guidelines for slow oil-absorbing high-performance bowling balls (urethane) models.

Rule 12-C – Use of Abrasives on Ball Surface – Provides examples of abrasives

Rule 12-E Foreign Material on Surface of Bowling Ball – Added to provide clarity and define foreign material on bowling ball surfaces during competition.

**I think my center would be a great place for a PWBA tournament. How are venues determined?**

If you or someone you know would like to host a PWBA tournament, please contact PWBA staff at [PWBA@bowl.com](mailto:PWBA@bowl.com).

**If I have other questions, who can I contact?**

We would love to hear from you. Click [here](#) to send us your thoughts.